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EVOLUTION OF COMPETITION LAW IN SERBIA

ABSTRACT: Even though Competition Law began its outbreak in the Serbian legal arena less than a century ago, it was developing rapidly especially in the last decade maintaining the EU antitrust contours. One would say that it is only now on the right track with enforcement of the new Law on Protection of Competition, which makes our legal reality even closer to the EU role model. Thus, this law corrected all shortcomings of its predecessor, and only time will tell us more of his future application.

Keywords: EU Competition Law, Law on protection of competition

Introduction

The development of Serbian Antitrust Law begins in year 1934 when Direction on Cartels was adopted. However, after that point the progress of this fresh and tender branch of law was not developing so smoothly. Throughout the socialist period of ex- Yugoslavian republic, competition policy was obstructed with nationally governed protection of public and state-owned companies which was only prolonging the life of controlled market economy. Therefore, during a long period of time almost until year 1996 Serbia was in lack of essential preconditions in order to develop a welfare-promising branch of law. However, it is essential for further understanding to stress that even though Competition Law became the part of Yugoslavian legal framework in the period of Kingdom of Yugoslavia, it was only the law of disloyal competition that was familiar to legal scholars in that period. After the World War II, situation remained very much the same. Socialist Republic of Yugoslavia introduced the state and public ownership without any chance for independence of market participants and no

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